

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and Claim 8 are cancelled herein. Claims 6 and 7 had previously been cancelled. New Claims 9-22 are added herein. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, for example, pages 21-23 and pages 13-15. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the specification for referencing the parent application, which since has issued as a U.S. patent. The cross-reference has been amended to now claim priority to U.S. Patent No. 6,743,499.

The Examiner has also provisionally rejected Claims 1 and 4 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 of copending Application No. 11/739,575. Since this is a provisional rejection, when the above-referenced application or the '575 application issues, Applicants will file a terminal disclaimer in the later pending application. See MPEP § 804B.1.

Claims 1-5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. More specifically, the word "fine" is objected to in Claim 1. The Examiner further states that the phrase "said outer surface" lacks antecedent basis in Claim 3.

As stated above, Claims 1 and 3 have been cancelled. The newly pending claims no longer include the wording objected to.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,628,999 issued to Schneble, Jr. In addition, Claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 stand rejected

under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being obvious over Schneble Jr. as applied to Claims 1 and 4 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,755,890 issued to Klehm, Jr.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schneble, Jr. does not disclose all of the elements as set forth in new Claims 9-22. In addition, the newly pending claims are not obvious in view of the cited references in that the limitations of the pending claims are not disclosed and would not be obvious to one skilled in the art.

More specifically, the newly pending claims include the limitation that the opposite surface side of the work piece is closed before the metal filling operation and opened after the metal filling operation. In addition, the metal layer is formed on at least an inner peripheral surface portion of the through hole adjacent to the first surface of the work piece.

The present invention provides various advantages over conventional methods. These include increased wettability and the ability to fill the molten metal in the hole.

Applicants submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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